

Kids Count's promote solutions to Gangs and weapons at the Labour Party Conference.



The think tank ,on the problems that youth face today, Kids Count have been attending the party conferences that the three major parties have been holding over the past few weeks. Americo and Myself had the fantastic opportunity of joining the Kids Count youth board and having the chance to go to the conference to promote our cause.

We had to try and get as many politicians to our Fringe as possible, eventually after two days of promoting we managed to have a full house at our fringe meeting, along farther, Lhamea, the chair of the Youth Board, who some of you may remember from the Anti knife crime event we held last year, the head of Operation Trident; resolving gun crime in London and an array of amazing youth workers. MP Vernon Coaker gave an emotional talk and made everyone including the Kids Count team realise that the government know the reality of the hard hitting problem we face;



“But in saying we do have a problem with our youth, we have to realise that the Majority of our Teens are fantastic individuals, but they have to deal with growing up in hard times”. MP Vernon Coaker

We saw Mike Jervis a youth worker from East, making a fore nominal difference in his area. Mike ran a project in his area that was huge, he had every big gang in the East end come together at one place and talk about their issues, and this was an impressive achievement. He also set up a group ‘Mothers Together’ who sat down once a week and talked about what their sons and even daughters were doing, be it dealing drugs armed robbery etc. They help each other, help their kids. He really inspired the audience and us; his message was that if we have everyone in our communities come together than we can make a difference.



“We can roll up to any gang or gang member and tell them that their days committing youth crime are over, if we work as a community, trust me on this”. Mike Jervis

Over all the past two days have been exciting, being in the heart of the most powerful political party at this present day. We had a chance to talk to a lot of MP's and a fair bit of media from The Sun news paper to ITV News as well, we all tired to get our point across and hopefully trigger some awareness and change from the governments point of view and other teens as well. We had a really great time and got to meet a bunch of new people. As well as arising the issues that our youth



face today. We are really looking forwards to the Conservative Part Conference on Sunday.

Americo and Jinal